

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

CAB-05 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 CEQ-01 OES-05

EPA-04 /091 W

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R 031513Z EAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9500

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LONDON 03345

BRUSSELS PASS FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SENV, ELAB, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CONCORDE WORKERS APPEAL TO EMBASSY

1. A GROUP OF SHOP STEWARDS REPRESENTING BRITISH AIR-CRAFT CORROORATION WORKERS INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONCORDE VISITED THE EMBASSY YESTERDAY' TOGETHER WITH A LABOR MEMBER OF FPRLIAMENT, TERRY ALKER. THE GROUP, PART OF AN ESTIMATED 700 AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY WORKERS WHO STAGED A DAY OF PROTEST YESTERDAY OVER JOB CUTS, PRESENT-ED A LETTER WHICH URGED THE US GOVERNMENT TO OPPOSE COURT ACTIONS OR OTHER ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO DELAY THE FLIGHT OF THE CONCORDE TO THE UNITED STATES. THEY WERE MET BY THE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE AND THE REGIONAL CIVIL AIR ATTACHE.

2. THE CHIEF SPOKESMAN OF THE GROUP, F. J. BROOKS, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEE AT THE FILTON PRODUCTION BASE FOR CONCORDE, EMPHASIZED THAT THE CONCORDE WORKERS THEY REPRESENT DO NOT FAVOR RETALIATION

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IF THE CONCORDE FLIGHTS ARE NOT ALLOWED. (COMMENT: CALLS FOR RETALIATION BY WORKERS COULD VERY WELL FOLLOW AN ADVERSE DECISION.) HE AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP. HOWEVER, URGED THAT CONCORDE BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE TEST TO PROCEED AS AUTHORIZED BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION COLEMAN. "ALL WE WANT," HE SAID, "IS A FAIR CRACK AT THE WHIP." IN THE LETTER (BEING POUCHED) WHICH THE GROUP LEFT WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, THE US GOVERNMENT WAS REQUESTED TO "ISSUE AN IMMEDIATE STATEMENT THAT IT WILL NOT ALLOW A MINORITY OF ITS CITIZENS TO UTILIZE THE COURTS OR TO EMPLOY OTHER DELAYING TACTICS AGAINST THE BRITISH AND FRENCH AIRLINES' RIGHTS TO OPERATE CONCORDE WITHIN US AIRPORTS."

3. EMBASSY OFFICERS ASSURED THE GROUP THAT THEIR VIEWS WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT US GOVERNMENT DECISIONS ARE SUBJECT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW AND THAT COURT DECISIONS AFFECTING THE CONCORDE WILL HAVE TO BE AWAITED.

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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